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THE ADVOCATE OF PEACE.

BOSTON, MASS., APRIL, 1869.

WASTEFULNESS OF WAR.—Hardly anything connected with government admits of strict economy; but its military and naval departments are in this respect the worst of all. They are so in every country, under any and every form of government. The idea of economy would seem incompatible with any department of the war-system.

We have just come across two or three illustrations of what is common everywhere. On his return from a four years' cruise, the chief engineer, when the vessel was in sight of port, (Eng.) threw overboard seventy tons of coal, hundreds of new brushes, files, chisels, casks of oil and tallow, sheets of nearly new copper, and a large amount of new and very valuable stores. Why? The chief engineer is held accountable for such stores; and if he brings back a surplus, it proves the dock-yard folks wrong in their calculations of what was needed, and he gets into disgrace with them, and so saves himself by throwing the surplus stores overboard!

There was, if not now, another case at Queenstown, Ireland. There was no need whatever of a costly naval establishment there in a time of peace; but an admiral was kept there, with a fine house and grounds, on a salary of £ 2,000, (nearly \$ 14,000 our money) with nothing in the world to do except occasionally to look after or at a coast-guard ship, her steam tender, an iron-clad and six gunboats, all furnished, of course, with a plenty of officers and men in charge of them, and all lying there month after month doing nothing! There were other facts in the case making it still more ludicrously wasteful. Every department of war is teeming every hour with just such facts as these.

SOLDIERS FOR THE REBELLION WAR.—We see how and whence came our two million troops by such facts as these—that “20 families in the town of Stamford, Conn., furnished 77 volunteers, and one woman sent six sons, and another one son and seven grandsons.” Here are 88 volunteers from 22 families. A striking illustration of loyal patriotism; but where now are these volunteers? Are their bones at Bull-Run, Antietam, Gettysburg, in the Wilderness?

PARIS PEACE LEAGUE.

The London *Times* lately gave a report of its meeting in February. It says “M. Passy is the founder of the Peace League, whose object is to propagate philanthropic ideas, and create a strong feeling against war; to carry out, if possible, and as soon as possible, the theories of the Abbe de St. Pierre, which Cardinal Dubois, who believed in nothing, irreverently termed ‘the reveries of an honest man.’ These reveries consisted in referring all disputes to a supreme tribunal of nations, and thus gradually bringing about a state of perpetual peace. There were present from three to four hundred persons of the better classes. There were a good many ladies, to whom a special appeal had been made, and one or two non-commissioned officers of artillery. M. Edouard Laboulaye, Member of the Institute, supported by M. M. Joseph Gurrier, Professor of Political Economy, Benard and Passy, members of the Society of Political Economy.

M. Laboulaye is one of those speakers one never tires of hearing. The most ordinary topic becomes attractive in his

hands. His style is clear, simple, and elegant; and his wit enlivens the driest subject. On opening the proceedings, he declared his opinion that people are at last beginning to be convinced of the utter uselessness, to say nothing of the barbarity, of war. War has passed through various stages. Its infancy was when Cain killed his brother Abel; its youth was spent under the great monarchies that preceded the Roman Empire; it arrived at manhood under the Romans, whom it was so much the fashion to admire; but in our times it has reached its old age, and is fast advancing to decrepitude. No doubt, efforts are made to render it interesting by the inventions of modern science—rifled cannon, Chassepots, projectiles of a new and startling composition, torpedoes, &c.; but these are like the desperate efforts made by the superannuated coquette to hide the ravages which time has made in her features, and which deceive nobody. The very fact that whole bodies of men can now be swept away without coming into close contact, shows that war must soon cease for ever.

After an effective address, which the wit and humor of the speaker did not render less effective, and which was repeatedly applauded, M. Laboulaye gave way to M. Frederick Passy, the organizer of the Peace League. He spoke for more than an hour on the same subject. He described in forcible language the horrible scenes presented by a field of battle, and quoted various passages from ancient and modern history showing the incredible amount of slaughter that ensues very often from quarrels of the most contemptible kind. In fact, he said all that one who is proud of being regarded as an enthusiast of philanthropy, might be expected to say on the horrors of war, and the blessings of peace; and he was warmly responded to by his audience, including even the artillerymen. The impression produced was excellent, and one only hopes it will be lasting.”

WHO WANTS A LARGE ARMY?—Not the mass of the people in France, certainly not the most intelligent and influential, but the men who gain glory and a livelihood by their bloody profession. The Paris correspondent of the London *Daily News* says that the *Moniteur de l' Armee*, a semi-official journal patronized by the Minister of War, publishes an article widely and ominously at variance with the pacific professions of the government. This military journal, which lies on the table of every military mess, and is taken by every cafe frequented by officers, lays down broadly the fiendish proposition, that “war is the natural state of nations.” Here is a specimen of its reasoning:

“Without war nations become effeminate and degraded. Where the soldier is wanting the man of money gets the upper hand. It is to speculators and Bourse gamblers that war does most harm. Do not civilization, arts, and commerce owe their most precious conquests to war? France has no covetous ambition. She does not want to disturb either the order or the repose of Europe. But she will not disarm. Her armaments have now attained the highest degree of perfection. Her arsenals are full, her reserves drilled, her fortified places in good condition, and the Mobile National Guard, which will become a considerable auxiliary force to the regular army, is in course of organization. France knows that her glory consists in the *eclat* of her arms. She will not forget what she owes to her valiant troops, and she will know how to maintain that rank in Europe which she owes to her soldiers. Let us not, therefore, return the sword to the scabbard. The sword is the arm of honor and patriotism; but there is a far more dangerous arm, and one which more than the sword compromises nations and individuals; this arm, gentlemen utopists, is *your pen*.”